

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2455

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003

SUPPLY OF SUB-STANDARD AMMUNITION AND SHELLS

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether low quality ammunition worth Rupees thousands of crores is being supplied to Armed Forces by Ordnance Factories;
- (b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has also pointed out several such cases of wastage of investment to the tune of Rupees thousands of crores in its report No. 6 of 2003;
- (c) whether the Government have taken a serious note of producing sub-standard ammunition by Research and Development Wing of Ordnance Units;
- (d) if so, the details of the sub-standard ammunition/defective shells produced and supplied by the Ordnance Factories to the Armed Forces and investment made by the Government thereon, factory-wise;
- (e) whether any accident caused due to sub- standard ammunition/defective shells;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government into the investment made on procuring defective ammunition/shells;
- (h) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (i) the steps taken by the Government to update and streamline quality production by Ordnance Factories?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General Report No. 6 of 2003 makes reference to certain types of ammunition which have been segregated by the Army.
- (c) Ammunition is supplied to the army only after it is duly accepted by the designated inspecting agency. Improvements through Research & Development are introduced only after extensive user trials and approval of the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars.
- (d) No sub-standard ammunition is supplied to the army. However, the details of the segregated ammunition are:-
 - (i) 125 mm Fin Stabilized Armour Piercing Discarding Sabot, valued at Rs. 352 crores, produced by Ordnance Factory, Khamaria as per the hybrid design, which has since been discontinued.
 - (ii) 125 mm High Explosive/High Explosive Anti Tank ammunition, valued at Rs. 296.53 crores, manufactured at Ordnance Factory Chanda/Ordnance Factory Bolangir with triple base propellant, which has since been discontinued.
 - (iii) Detonator (metallic), produced by Ammunition Factory, Kirkee/Ordnance Factory, Chanda, valued at Rs. 3.92 crores.
- (e) The accident mentioned in the Comptroller & Auditor General's report was investigated and it has been concluded that the same is not attributable to the ammunition.
- (f) Does not arise.
- (g) No, Sir.
- (h) Does not arise.
- (i) Apart from final inspection and proof of the product, the raw material, components & the sub-assemblies going into a product are

also inspected. There is also inter-stage inspection by Quality Control agencies.